

The embroidery is mostly work from the 1930s and 1940s collected by the Needlework Development Scheme from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and given to the Museum in 1962. There are one or two earlier pieces including a portion of a linen wall hanging embroidered in wool which formerly hung in the tent at Thingvellir where the Althing was held. This is thought to have been assembled in the late 18th century from several pieces of slightly earlier date and has been in the collection since 1858. There are unfortunately no samplers from any of the Scandinavian countries.

Modern Scandinavian decorative arts are also represented in the Museum's collection of textiles. In 1950 A.B. Stobo of Stockholm generously presented a group of printed fabrics based on patterns by some leading Swedish designers and interest in contemporary work is also reflected in the acquisition in 1976 of a modern hanging by the Danish weaver Tustra Wefuing.

Similar acquisitions have been made in the field of ceramics and glass. In the Museum's extensive collection of porcelain are several pieces made by the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Factory and our modern continental glass includes examples from both Sweden and Denmark. Earlier developments in Danish glass are to be seen in a range of vessels dating from the 19th century, acquired in 1977.

Although the Royal Scottish Museum's Scandinavian holdings can in no way claim to be among the major collections of such material they do contain a wide range of objects and decorative styles. Among these are some interesting items which would certainly merit the attention of those concerned with the material culture and decorative arts of the northern countries.

RECENT SCANDINAVIAN ACCESSIONS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Stephen Holland

The 500th anniversary of Uppsala University in 1977 was marked by the publication of a number of commemorative works, which we have acquired for the Library. An excellent overall

picture of Scandinavia's oldest university is given by Sten Lindroth in *A history of Uppsala University 1477–1977*, whilst detailed histories of the faculties have appeared in English in 11 volumes under the collective title *Uppsala University 500 years*. As a contribution to the anniversary, there has been started what is described by the publishers as 'by far the most ambitious bibliographical project ever embarked upon in Sweden'. This is *Swedish imprints 1731–1833*, designed to begin filling the gap in Sweden's retrospective national bibliographies after Collijn's great work on imprints before 1600. Later periods are covered by catalogues, but not by the kind of scholarly retrospective bibliography that Collijn produced. The new work is to be produced by the Centre for Bibliographical Studies, Uppsala, set up in 1971 to further bibliographical research in Sweden. Since 1974 the Centre has issued a journal of bibliography, *Text*, which has prepared the way for the huge undertaking. The bibliography is to appear in fairly small parts, each with its own index, the indexes to be cumulated at regular intervals. Perhaps wisely, the publishers stress that the enterprise should be regarded as an open-ended serial, rather than a separate work, and indicate that the editors are following the dictum *Festina lente*. The National Library has subscribed to the bibliography and has received the first part; we wait with interest to see how *lente* the progress of the work will be.

The last year has seen other welcome developments in Scandinavian reference works. The Danish publisher Gyldendal has begun production of a much-needed national encyclopaedia to replace the ageing *Salmonsens konversations leksikon*. National encyclopaedias have an extremely valuable place on the reference shelves of a large library, for though the world-wide coverage of their articles necessarily duplicates what is available in other works, the truly 'national' aspect of many of their entries provide a wealth of information difficult to obtain elsewhere. The first volume of *Gyldendals leksikon*, or *Gyldendals tibinds leksikon*, as it is also known to distinguish it from the two-volume work of 1973, despite its declared intention of emphasizing world affairs, still manages to contain four pages of 'Andersen' entries (following an entry for Anders And, the Danish form of Donald Duck!). The first volume of the encyclopaedia was published in September 1977, and the tenth is due to appear in October 1978. Two volumes are available in the Reading Room; others will join them as they are received. From Denmark has also come a

new edition of *Dansk litteratur historie*, previously published in the mid 1960s in four volumes, and now completely revised and enlarged to six volumes to include authors of the 1970s. The five volumes of *Dansk kunst historie*, begun in 1972 and completed in 1975, join the other national histories of Scandinavian art in the Art section of the Reading Room.

Imaginative literature has not been neglected in the last couple of years. Perhaps the most exciting item we received was the five-volume edition of Hans Christian Andersen's *Samlede eventyr og historier*, published in 1975 to mark the centenary of the author's death. The distinguishing feature of this edition is its rich illustration: no less than 75 artists are represented, from 1837 to the present day, with some of the tales illustrated for the first time. As a free gift with *Samlede eventyr*, we were delighted to receive a facsimile of Andersen's *Tolv med posten*, reprinted from Kristian Kongstad's 'edition' of 1916, of which only one copy was printed. A collection of the early 19th century Danish writer Steen Steensen Blicher's stories, *Samlede noveller*, has just been published in five volumes. These have arrived in the Library and should be available for consultation later in the year. Individual works of modern writers have been acquired in considerable numbers. The Library now has, for instance, forty works by the prolific Dane Klaus Rifbjerg, who produces two or three new books each year without fail.

Whilst new books have remained our priority, we have been able to acquire a certain amount of older material. A recent survey of the Library's holdings revealed unfortunate gaps in earlier 20th century Swedish works. A list of desiderata was compiled and sent to our Swedish agent, who managed to find copies of most of the items, thereby increasing our coverage of such important 20th century writers as Gunnar Ekelöf, Eyvind Johnson, Pär Lagerkvist, Anders Österling. When time and money allow, it is hoped to repeat this exercise in areas where the need appears greatest. Work continues on processing the microfilm series of early Swedish books, *Scandinavian Culture Series*, of which the Library has so far received 119 rolls of film, representing about 850 items.